REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Molsen et al. (US Pat. 6,122,024) in view of Sekine et al. (US Pat. 6,313,894).

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Molsen et al. in view of Sekine et al., and further in view of Hiji et al. (US Pat. 5,872,609).

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Molsen et al. in view of Sekine et al., and further in view of Hu et al. (US Pat. 5,517,344).

Summary of Amendment

Claim 11 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 11-18, 22, and 23 remain pending for further consideration.

All Claims Comply Under §103

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Molsen et al. in view of Sekine et al., claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Molsen et al. in view of Sekine et al., and further in view of Hiji et al., and claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Molsen et al. in view of Sekine et al., and further in view of Hu et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 11, as amended, recites, in part, that "the photo-reactant material and the liquid

crystal material form a polymer network such that the photo-reactant material is aligned by irradiated light in a first direction and the liquid crystal material is aligned by the irradiated light in a second direction different from the first direction." (Emphasis added.) This feature is supported in the specification as originally filed on page 12, paragraph [0039] and in FIGs. 5A and 5B. Hence, no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests such a feature.

More specifically, Molsen et al. teaches that the helical polymer network 9 is evenly distributed within the nematic liquid crystals 8. (*See* FIGs. 1-4.) Similarly, Hiji et al. also teaches evenly distributed polymer material within the liquid crystals (FIGs. 1(A)-5)C)). Sekine et al. was cited only for the teaching of a seal and is silent as to a polymer network. Likewise, Hu et al. was cited only for the teaching of a double seal and is also silent as to a polymer network. As none of the cited references teach that "the photo-reactant material and the liquid crystal material form a polymer network such that the photo-reactant material is aligned by irradiated light in a first direction and the liquid crystal material is aligned by the irradiated light in a second direction different from the first direction," Applicant respectfully asserts that Molsen et al., Sekine et al., Hiji et al., and Hu et al., whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach at least this feature of independent claim 11.

As claims 12-18 and 22 depend from claim 11, Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited prior art, whether taken individually or in combination, also fail to teach all the claimed features for at least the reasons stated above. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection to these claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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